

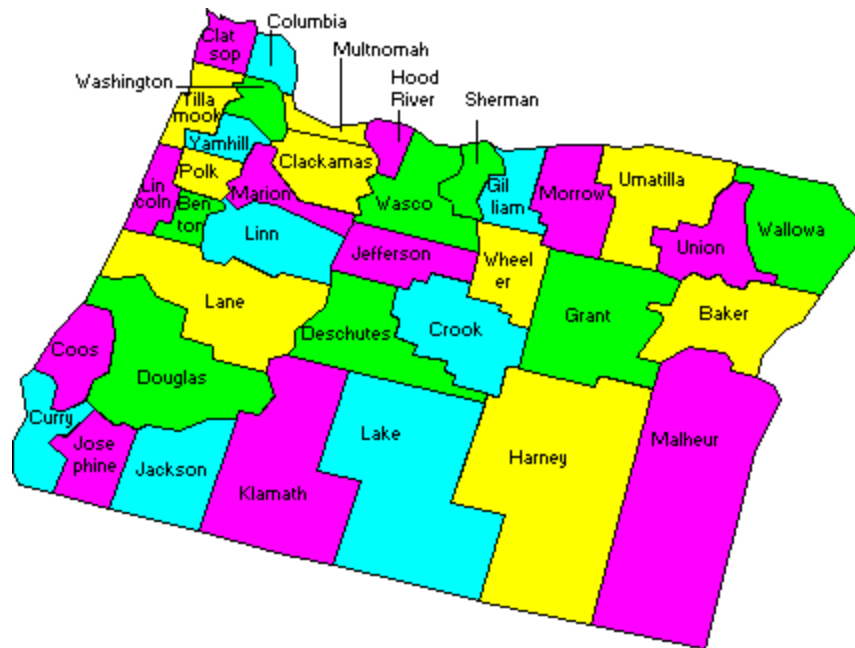
Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

Portland, Oregon

Profile of Drug Indicators

April 2000



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Portland

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

Demographics

- Population: 488,813 (1998 estimate)¹
- Population (Multnomah County): 633,224 (1999 estimate); 583,887 (1990 Census)²
- Race/Ethnicity (Multnomah County, 1990): 87.0% white; 6.0% African American; 1.1% American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; 4.7% Asian/Pacific Islander; 1.2% other race; 3.1% Hispanic.³

Politics⁴

- Mayor: Vera Katz
- Chief of Police: Mark A. Kroeker

Programs/Initiatives

- Executive Office of Weed and Seed⁵
The Target Area of the Portland Weed and Seed site consists of a group of 15 communities known as the Albina Community in the North and Northeast sections of Portland. This area has the highest concentration of unemployment, depressed residential and commercial property, and the highest crime rate in the city. The high school dropout rates here are also the highest in the City of Portland.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- There were 46,523 crime index offenses known to the police in Portland in 1998.⁶

Offenses Known to the Police, Portland, 1998

Offense	Number
Murder/Non-negligent Manslaughter	26
Forcible Rape	361
Robbery	1,639
Aggravated Assault	4,681
Burglary	6,713
Larceny-theft	26,606
Motor Vehicle Theft	6,041
Arson	456
Total	46,523

- In 1997, there were approximately 421 juveniles arrested for drug offenses in Multnomah County. At this same time, an estimated 5,630 adults in Multnomah County were arrested for drug offenses.⁷
- In 1998, 74.3% of female arrestees in Portland tested positive for drugs at the time of their arrests.⁸

Percent of Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs, Portland, 1998

Offense Type	N		Cocaine		Marijuana		Metham.		Any Drug	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Violent	112	30	10.7	6.7	38.4	30.0	17.0	23.3	54.5	63.3
Property	121	66	30.6	24.2	35.5	21.2	23.1	27.3	75.2	71.2
Drug	204	91	48.0	58.2	39.3	17.6	20.6	26.4	89.2	87.9
Prostitution	1	3	100.0	33.3	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	33.3
Other	323	137	22.9	35.0	36.5	27.0	15.2	17.5	64.7	70.1
Total	761	327	29.2	36.7	36.9	23.2	18.1	22.3	71.5	74.3

Juveniles

- In 1998, 52.5% of juvenile male arrestees in Portland tested positive for drugs at the time of their arrests.⁹

Percent of Juvenile Male Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs, Portland, 1998

Offense Type	N	Cocaine	Marijuana	Metham.	Any Drug
Violent	56	5.4	48.2	3.6	51.8
Property	47	2.1	51.1	2.1	51.1
Drug	14	7.1	78.6	0.0	78.6
Other	80	2.5	46.3	3.8	50.0
Total	198	3.5	50.0	3.0	52.5

Trafficking and Seizures

- DEA and Customs reports show that the Portland International Airport is being used as a transit point for Asian heroin to other points in the United States.¹⁰
- Portland's location along Interstate 5 has made it a high concentration area for tar heroin.

Consequences of Use

- In 1998, there were 176 total drug abuse deaths in the Portland, OR/Vancouver, WA area. This is a 14.3% increase over the number of drug abuse deaths in 1997.¹¹

Drug Abuse Deaths, Portland, OR/Vancouver, WA

Year	Number of Deaths
1995	134
1996	170
1997	154
1998	176

- 62.5% of those people in the Portland/Vancouver area that died as a result of drug abuse were older than 35 years of age.¹²
- Heroin/morphine was mentioned by Medical Examiners (ME) in 127, or 72.2%, of the total drug abuse deaths in the Portland/Vancouver area.¹³

Number of ME Drug Mentions, 1998

Drug	Mentions	Drug	Mentions	Drug	Mentions
Amphetamines	5	Cocaine	57	Heroin/Morph	127
Inhalants/Solv	3	Methadone	9	Metham./Speed	9

- In 1997, there were 85 drug-affected babies born in Multnomah County.¹⁴
- There were 121 drug-related deaths in Multnomah County in 1997.¹⁵

Enforcement

- The Portland Police Bureau and Regional Organized Crime and Narcotics Taskforce (ROCN) executes search warrants on drug houses, arrests drug dealers, and works with landlords to evict these individuals to try to increase the public's perception of safety.¹⁶
- As of October 31, 1998, there were 1,285 full-time law enforcement employees in Portland. 982 of these were sworn officers and 303 were civilians.¹⁷

Treatment

- Turning Point¹⁸
This residential therapeutic community located at the Columbia River Correctional Institution in Portland involves two separate programs. There is a 50-bed program for men and a 50-bed program for woman, each having its own facility. These programs are very intense and provide many hours of treatment each week and arrange for aftercare once the inmate has been released. Targeting those individuals with severe alcohol or drug problems and established patterns of criminal behavior, these programs emphasize the following:
 - Alcohol/drug education and treatment
 - Modifying criminal thinking and lifestyles
 - Improving family-related problems
 - Independent living skills training
 - Linkage to aftercare
- In Focus¹⁹
This pre-release day treatment program also located at the Columbia River Correctional Institution provides 15 hours each week of classes and groups to prepare inmates for drug-free post prison living. This program is geared towards women and also emphasizes parenting skills training.
- In 1997, there were 19,837 people treated for alcohol and drug abuse problems in publicly funded treatment services in Multnomah County.²⁰
- Those clients who have completed treatment in Multnomah County were half as likely to be arrested as those who did not complete treatment.²¹

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- ¹ FBI, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports 1998*, October 1999: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr.htm>
- ² U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>
- ³ Ibid.
- ⁴ City of Portland Web site: <http://www.ci.portland.or.us>
- ⁵ Executive Office of Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org>
- ⁶ FBI, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports 1998*, October 1999: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr.htm>
- ⁷ Regional Drug Initiative, *Drug Impact Index*, 9th Edition, July 1998
- ⁸ National Institute of Justice, *1998 Annual Report on Drug Use Among Adult and Juvenile Arrestees*
- ⁹ Ibid.
- ¹⁰ Oregon State Police, Drug Enforcement Section
- ¹¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies, *Drug Abuse Warning Network Annual Medical Examiner Data 1998*, March 2000:
http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/DAWN/98me_annual.pdf
- ¹² Ibid.
- ¹³ Ibid.
- ¹⁴ Regional Drug Initiative, *Drug Impact Index*, 9th Edition, July 1998
- ¹⁵ Ibid.
- ¹⁶ Executive Office of Weed and Seed Web site: <http://www.weedseed.org>
- ¹⁷ FBI, *Crime in the United States: Uniform Crime Reports 1998*, October 1999:
<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr.htm>
- ¹⁸ Oregon Department of Corrections, Institution Alcohol and Drug Programs
- ¹⁹ Ibid.
- ²⁰ Regional Drug Initiative, *Drug Impact Index*, 9th Edition, July 1998
- ²¹ Ibid.

This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#) For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues contact:

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